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# **Transferable skills in doctoral education: Experience from the DocEnhance project**

**Eurodoc Conference 2021 ~ Improving Doctoral Training in Europe, July 14 – 15, 2021**

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This project has received funding from the European Union`s Horizon 2020 Science with and for Society programme under grant agreement no. 872483



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# Content:

- Brief introduction to the DocEnhance project
- The most important results



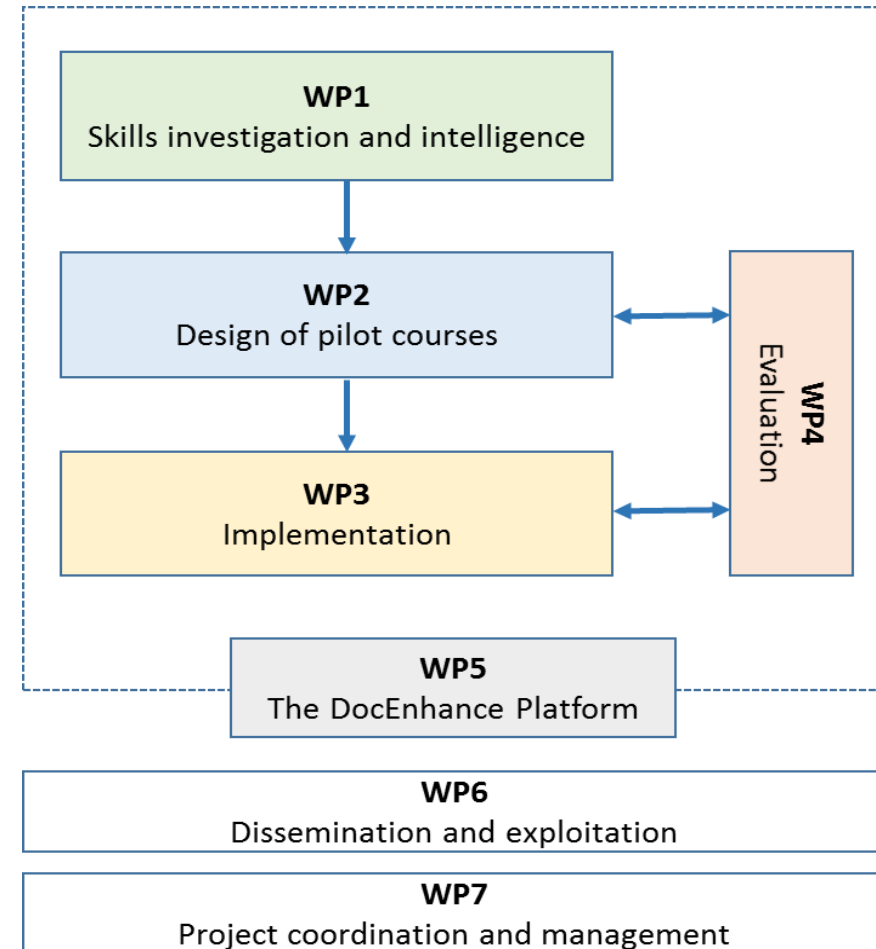
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# The overall objective and workplan

- To build the **DocEnhance network and online platform to develop and integrate transferable skills training into PhD education in Europe, and to increase interaction with and exposure to the non-academic sector.**



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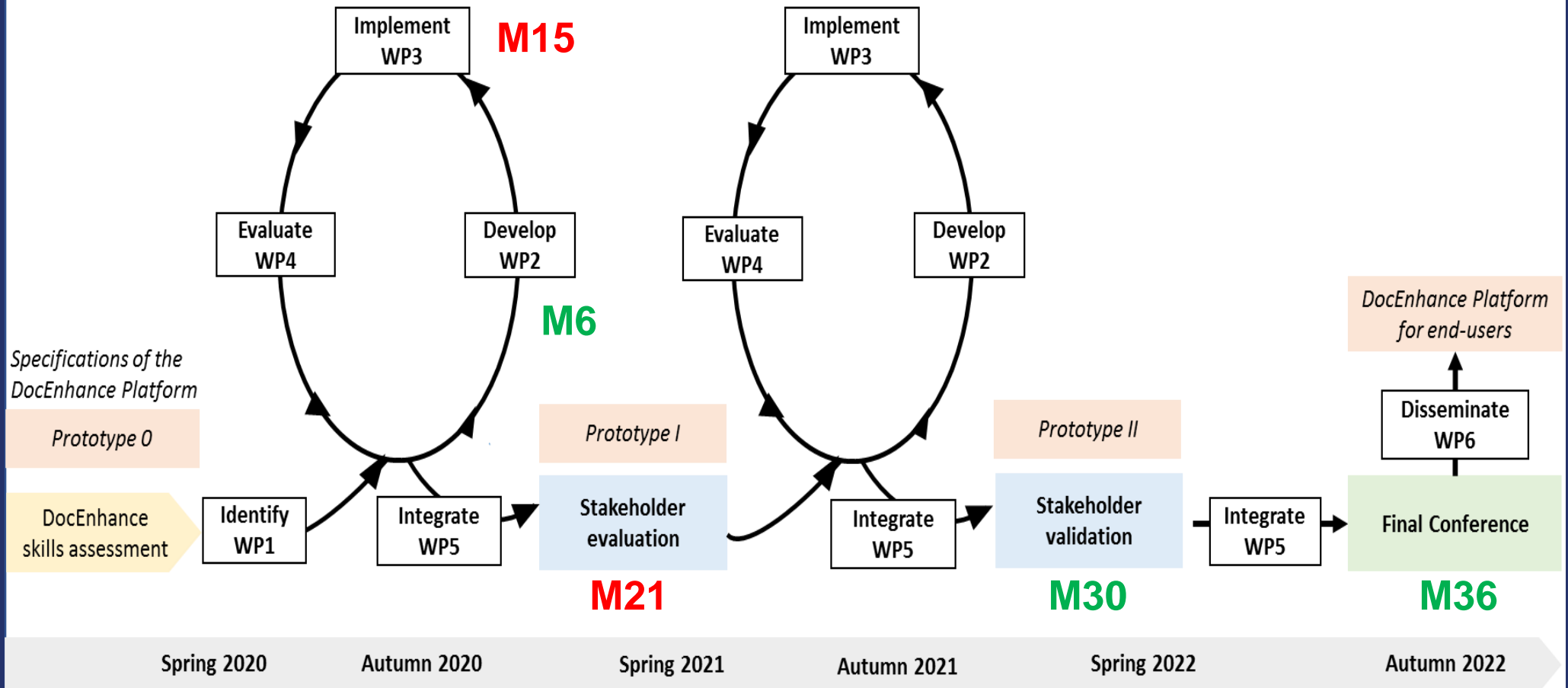
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# Overall concept and methodology

The co-creation approach →  
integration

Skills intelligence →

Skills



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# The most important results so far



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# D1.1 Good practice recommendations for integration of transferable skills training in PhD programmes

1. Transferable skills training in reports and scientific literature
    - 1.1 Transferable skills training based on learning by doing
    - 1.2 Formal transferable skills training: good practice examples
  2. Good practice recommendations based on research projects (18)
  3. Good practice recommendations from DocEnhance partners
  4. Additional good practice recommendations
- Concluding remarks on good practice recommendations  
for transferable skills training





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# Regional stakeholder workshops

- ✓ Four skills-prioritizing workshops organized for external stakeholders.
- ✓ Each workshop focused on a career sector chosen to represent crucial challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.
- ✓ The purpose of the RSWs was to understand what skills are needed across Europe within each of the chosen sectors.
- ✓ The recommended curricula and pilot courses (WP2) are designed by considering outcomes of RSWs



Transferable skills in non-profit sector, 10.9.2020, Slovakia



Doctoral education in cooperation between industry and the university, 2.10.2020, Finland



Transferable skills in Technology sector, 27.10.2020 and 3.11.2020, Spain

Regional stakeholder workshop 10.11.2020, Norway



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Industry (Finland)	Technology (Spain)	Non-profit sector (Slovakia)	Specific data-driven sectors (Norway)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Digital skills</li> <li>• Communication, presentation skills</li> <li>• Skills to identify own skills and communicate them to different audiences</li> <li>• <i>Problem solving</i></li> <li>• <i>Management &amp; leadership skills</i></li> <li>• Contextual flexibility</li> <li>• Creativity</li> <li>• Adaptability, motivation, ethics</li> <li>• Teamwork and networking</li> <li>• Language skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adaptability and flexibility</li> <li>• Collaboration/ team work</li> <li>• Motivation</li> <li>• Language skills</li> <li>• Presentation skills</li> <li>• Permanent self-learning</li> <li>• Ability to address different audiences</li> <li>• Understanding business culture/organizational structures</li> <li>• Participation in non-research activities</li> <li>• Time management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personal skills and abilities: empathy, motivation, resilience, adaptability, flexibility, ethics, social responsibility</li> <li>• Communication and presentation skills</li> <li>• Organisational and execution skills: project management, financial management, creativity</li> <li>• <i>Management and entrepreneurial skills, leadership, problem solving, critical thinking</i></li> <li>• Teamwork</li> <li>• Language skills</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understanding and analysing different types of data</li> <li>• Running statistics</li> <li>• Handling sensitive data</li> <li>• Metadata management</li> <li>• Text data mining</li> <li>• Visualising and communicating data and statistics</li> </ul>



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# Career-tracking survey (CTS)

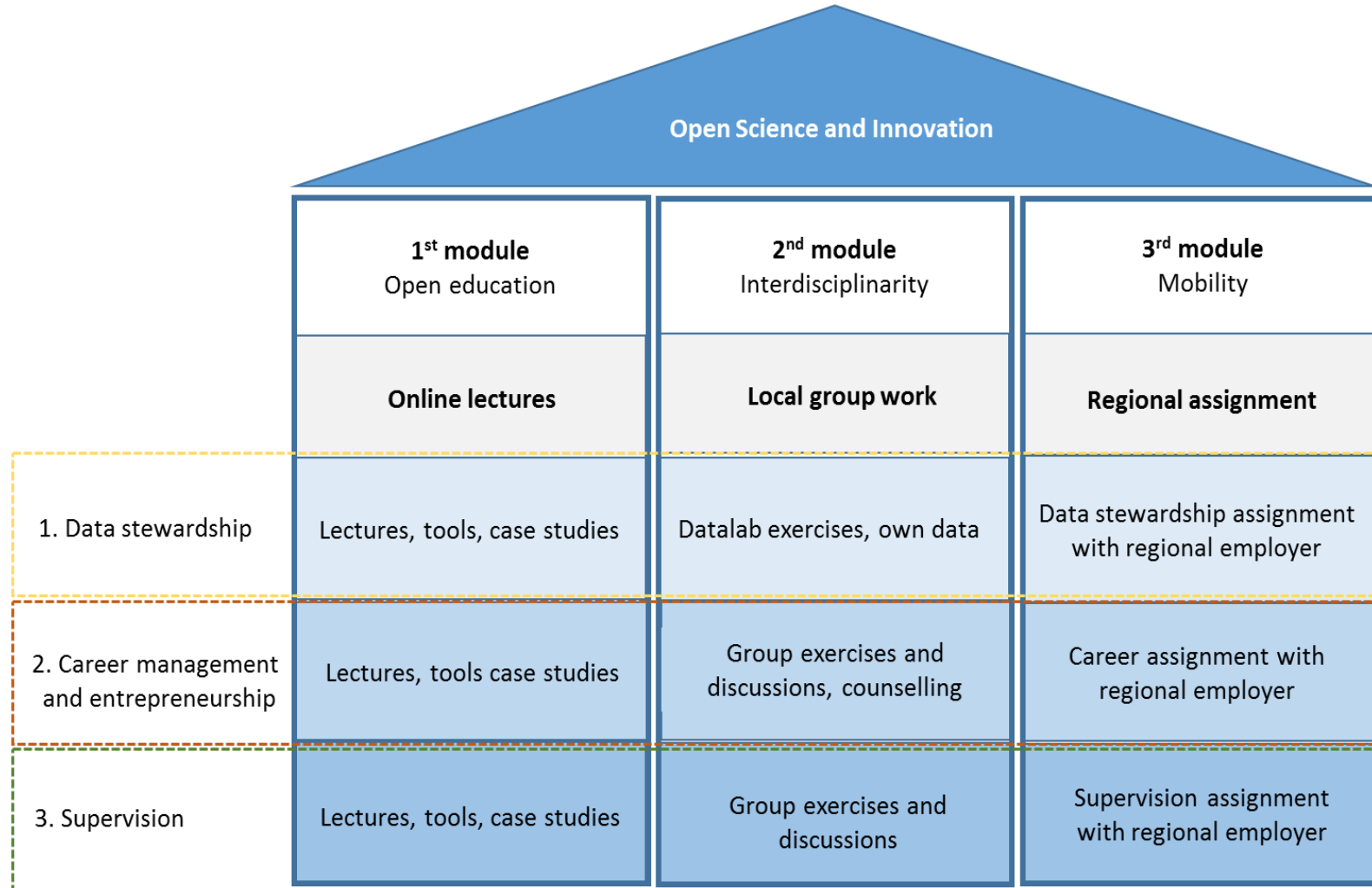
- Launched on 9 March 2021 and closed on 15 April 2021, collecting more than **2,220 responses** from the nine participating universities
  - Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), UiT Arctic University of Norway Tromso (Norway), Maastricht University (Netherlands), Technical University of Munich (Germany), University of Alcala (Spain), University of Chemistry and Industry Prague (Czech Republic), Matej Bel University (Slovakia), NOVA University Lisbon (Portugal) and University of Sassari (Italy)
- 60-70 questions, 8 different sections (doctoral education, skills, transition to first/next employment, employment and career related experience, intersectoral and geographical mobility and demographic details)
- Overall response rate: 25 %



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# Pilot courses design





# Implementation of pilot courses

Table 1. Timetable for the courses piloted in spring 2021

Course	KAU	UCT	UNL	TAU	UMB	UAH
1. Data Stewarship	3 – 31/5	3 – 14/5				
2. Career management			28 /6 – 9/7	19/3 – 16/4		
3. Supervision				11/5 & 1/6	13/5 & 3/6	12, 19 & 26/2

- The first round of piloting completed in July 2021
- The second round of pilots in spring 2022
- Reports on courses piloted
- Good practice recommendation for DocEnhance course concept implementation





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# Next steps

- Career Tracking survey results
- Finishing first iterative loop and starting second one
- DocEnhance Platform
- DocEnhance Network
- Dissemination and exploitation results



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# Find out more!



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**Thank you for your attention** 😊



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